ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA
MEMORANDUM

October 1, 1984

TO: Albert C. Eisenberg, Member, Arlington County Board

FROM: Larry J. Brown, County Manager LJB/mw

SUBJECT: History of the Reuse of School Buildings

You have requested that we assemble information regarding schools that were closed in Arlington in the last ten years. You also indicated that you would like the current ownership of the former school property and how each school is being used. The following has been assembled from our records and/or memory and is, to the best of our knowledge, complete with the exception of some very early sales of school property that predate current staff. As an example, an elementary school was located at Wilson and Randolph Street. At one time there was a Hogates Restaurant in the building and currently the property has three high-rise office buildings on it. We were unable to research that information in the short time you gave us for this reply. That transaction took place prior to 1960, however. You asked for the last ten years and the following list goes beyond that. Probably the oldest action on this list is the Kemper Elementary School which was abandoned as an elementary school prior to 1970.

The following response is in alphabetical order.

1. **Cherrydale Elementary School** - The building was abandoned as an elementary school as a part of a school consolidation and building improvement program. The School Board transferred the land and building to the County and subsequently the County gave the land to the Arlington Health Center Commission. This is the site of the Camelot Nursing Home.

2. **Claremont Elementary School** - This building continues to be owned by the School Board and is leased to the Northern Virginia Police Academy.

3. **Clay Elementary School** - This building had an interim school use after closure as an elementary school. It served a special population group of teenagers. Most recently it has been transferred by the School Board to the County Board and the County Board has made a decision to allocate the land for a park. The building has been torn down and site restoration has started. The Park Division is working with the neighborhood to develop a plan. The plan must be approved by the County Board and a funding source identified prior to implementation.

4. **Custis Elementary School** - This school was vacated in June 1979 and remained vacant for some time. It has been traded for other property to the Sheltered Occupational Center of Northern Virginia. The County retained a portion of the land for a neighborhood park.

5. **Dolley Madison Elementary School** - This building was sold to a developer and a high-rise apartment was constructed on the site.

6. **Drew Elementary School** - The School Board continues to own the building and some of the grounds. The County has always owned a portion of the playground as one of the early joint venture projects. There is a special elementary school in the building along with a DHS senior nutrition program and Recreation Division programs.

7. **Fairlington Elementary School** - The School Board continues to own this property. There are some unique issues in reference to the deed on the property and therefore it is appropriate for the School Board to continue to own the building and grounds. Currently the building is used for a variety of programs including some Adult Education programs, Recreation programs with some of the space being leased to nonprofit groups.

8. **Fort Myer Elementary School** - The elementary school on the post was abandoned in June 1979 and the property reverted to military use as it was owned by the Federal government.

9. **Gunston Junior High School** - The School Board continues to own the Gunston building and some of the grounds. The County has always owned a portion of the playground area in one of the joint venture units. Currently the building is shared, one-third by Adult Education and two-thirds by the Recreation Division.

10. **Hoffman-Boston High School** - The School Board continues to own the building and grounds. The building has a shared use arrangement including adult education, Recreation Division, ACAP, and other special school uses.

11. **Jackson Elementary School** - The School Board continues to own the building and grounds. The building is currently used by the School Division Exceptional Population School, the Cigarette Tax Board, and the Extension Service.

12. **Kemper Elementary School** - This building was abandoned as an elementary school and eventually given to the County. Prior to donation to the County, the School Board authorized the ACAP program to start a day care center in the building. During its use as a day care center, the building and grounds were transferred to the County. Eventually the day care center moved to the Hoffman-Boston location and the building was torn down for low-moderate income housing. These are owner occupied units and therefore the property is in private ownership.

13. **Lee Elementary School** - This school was transferred to the County after the students were moved to another location and the Lee Recreation Center was started shortly thereafter.

14. **Madison Elementary School** - This school was transferred to the County after it was shut down. The building is shared by the Recreation Division and Department of Human Services.

15. **Marshall Elementary School** - This school was closed many years ago and the School Board temporarily moved its offices there because the State condemned their building as a part of I-66. After the new School Board building was built, Adult Education used the facility for a number of years. Later the building and grounds were transferred to the County and the County sold the property to a developer.

16. **Marshall Annex** - Marshall Annex was a temporary World War II type structure and housed portions of the Marshall students, and later special education students. The School Board transferred the property to the County Board and the County Board currently leases the land to Marymount College for student parking.

17. **Maury Elementary School** - This school was transferred to the County and a community arts center was started at that location. It is a nonprofit community group and has occupied the Maury building for a number of years.

18 **Reed Elementary School** - The School Board continues to own the building and grounds. Currently there are two day care center operators approved for the building. Other space is being considered for a variety of uses.

19. **Stewart Elementary School** - The property was transferred to the County. The County started a performing arts center in the building. At the time the performing arts center moved to Gunston, the building was leased to the Arlington Fairfax Savings and Loan Bank. The bank did not modify the Stewart building as a bank annex and ultimately canceled its lease. The County Board subsequently authorized the demolition of the building and the development of a park on the site.

20. **Wilson Elementary School** - The Wilson building was used in a variety of ways after the elementary school was closed including a recreation center and Adult Education Center. At one point it was put back into service as an elementary school to temporarily house the Woodmont students during the Woodmont construction. To date the School Board continues to own the building and has a large Adult Education use in the building along with a DHS senior nutrition program.

21. **Woodlawn Elementary School** - This school was used as a special senior high school for a period of time and subsequently that use was moved to the former Stratford Junior High School. The School Board gave the property to the County Board. Since there was a park on the site, the County had an interest in maintaining the entire property. At one point the County Board agreed to donate the building to Hospice of Northern Virginia, Inc. while keeping ownership of the land. Currently the Hospice of Northern Virginia owns the building and the County owns all of the former school land as well as the park land.

22. **Woodmont Elementary School** - The School Board transferred this property to the County Board and currently the building is being renovated so a variety of uses can be possible. These uses will include County archives, storage for the Department Libraries, and space leased to the YMCA and the Arlington Adult Activity Center.

cc: William L. Hughes

CAG:schools